

AFTER LOSS IN PITCHER'S BATTLE, RAIDER SOFTBALL EVENS DOUBLE DIP WITH EXTRA-INNING WIN

By **DOUG CALSBEEK**
Co-Editor

SIOUX CITY — A pitching battle and an extra-inning contest on Monday, April 24, at the Jensen Complex in Sioux City resulted in a loss and a win for Northwestern College softball. Host Morningside outlasted the Red Raiders 2-1 in game one, the Raiders suffering only their second loss in Great Plains Athletic Conference play. In game two, the NWC offense broke a 4-4 tie with a three-run eighth at bat for a 7-4 win.

The split gave the Mustangs a 12-4 conference mark and an overall record of 27-10. Northwestern advanced to Tuesday, April 25, games with Mount Marty with a 15-2 mark in the conference and 40-4 overall.

Three runs allowed

Grace Buffington pitched seven innings in the Morningside win, scattering five hits and allowing one earned run, walking no one and striking out one.

For the Raiders, Kate Kralik worked four innings, allowing three hits, one earned run, walking three and striking out three. Kameryn Etherington stepped in and took the loss, allowing one hit and one unearned run in two innings of work, walking one and striking out one.

Mustang Mykel Ann Gray doubled in the first inning, reached third on a ground out, but the Raiders contained that threat before scoring in the top of the second. In the Raider at bat, Chloe Gallegos reached on a base hit, and advanced to third after a wild pitch and a Mustang error, Gallegos came home on a Kameryn Etherington ground out.

The Raiders threatened in the third. Charli Bomgaars raced to first on a bunt single but was put out on a Gwen Mikkelsen fielder's choice. Madysn Grotewold reached on an error, Mikkelsen getting to second. A ground out ended that possibility.

Morningside got on the board in the fourth to tie the score. Sydney Petersen doubled. Pinch runner Emma Barwick reached third on a ground out came home on an Ellie Gengler bunt single.

In the fifth, the Raiders nearly scored. Ashtyn Billings reached on a base hit, reached second on a Bomgaars sacrifice bunt, rounded third on a Mikkelsen base hit but was thrown out at home to end the threat.

The Mustangs scored the winning run in the bottom of the fifth. Ellie Cropley singled, advanced to second on a Raider error, reached third on a fly out and scored on a wild pitch.

The Raiders had a chance to tie the tote in the seventh. Etherington led off with a triple. After an out, Maddie Kvatek put down a bunt, drew the out at first, but the throw to home was in time to tag Etherington trying for home plate.

Morningside had three errors, the Raiders one.

Three runs in the eighth

The Raiders outhit the Mustangs 14-8 in the capper, rapping four in the deciding eighth inning. For the Raiders, Etherington was 3-4 with two RBIs and two runs scored, Gallegos 3-4, as well with two RBIs. Pinch hitters Leah Schaefer and Ellie Jacobson also got in on the RBI action, each getting one in their single at bats.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
Northwestern	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	1
Morningside	0	0	0	1	1	0	X	2	4	3
Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB			
3B Gwen Mikkelsen	3	0	1	0	0	0	0			
SS Madysn Grotewold	3	0	0	0	0	0	0			
2B Emily Strasser	3	0	0	0	0	0	2			
C Chloe Gallegos	3	1	1	0	0	0	0			
DP/P Kameryn Etherington	3	0	1	1	0	0	0			
1B Jennifer Boeve	3	0	0	0	0	0	0			
RF Maddie Kvatek	3	0	0	0	0	1	0			
CF Ashtyn Billings	2	0	1	0	0	0	0			
LF Charli Bomgaars	1	0	1	0	0	0	0			
P/DP Kate Kralik	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Totals	24	1	5	1	0	1	2			

3B: Kameryn Etherington (1); SH: Charli Bomgaars (1); E: Gwen Mikkelsen (1)

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Kate Kralik	4.0	3	1	1	3	3
Kameryn Etherington (L, 17-4)	2.0	1	1	0	1	1
Totals	-	4	2	1	4	4

With a run each were 2-4 batters Mikkelsen and Emily Strasser, Billings at 1-3 and Grotewold at 1-4. Jewel Bergstrom also scored a run.

For the Mustangs, Mackenna Sidzyk was 2-4 with three RBIs. Jones was 2-4 with an RBI and a run scored.

Petersen was 1-4 with a run scored. Morgan Nixon scored two runs. Gray was 2-4.

Mikkelsen opened scoring in the first at bat, reaching on a base hit, advancing on a Grotewold bunt, then scoring on an Etherington base hit. Morningside tied it in the second. Nixon walked, reached second on a base hit, then scored on a Sidzyk RBI single.

The score stayed knotted after three runs each in the third.

For the Raiders, Grotewold scored after a base hit, a wild pitch, a Strasser single and a wild pitch. Strasser reached third on the wild pitch, and came home on an Etherington double. Gallegos rifled a single to score Etherington.

After two outs, the Mustangs evened the score at 4-4, Petersen singled, Nixon walked. Jones singled Petersen home. Gengler loaded the bases with a single, forcing a Raider pitching change. Sidzyk rapped a two-RBI single to knot the score.

The teams traded a single hit each until the seventh. Morningside threatened with two runners on, but the Raider defense held.

In the deciding eighth, Etherington led off with a base hit and reached second on an error. Jennifer Boeve, back in the line-up after recovering from an injury, bunted Etherington to third, and Gallegos rapped an RBI single. Jewel Bergstrom, running for Gallegos, reached second on a sacrifice bunt, and Schaefer drove Bergstrom home with a base hit. Billings took up running duties, stole second, then came home on a Jacobson single.

Morningside threatened a walk-off on a walk and a passed ball, but the Raiders fielded two pop-ups to secure the win.

"Kate Kralik showed a level of toughness we knew she had but was great for her to experience," said Raider coach Shane Bouman. "Jewel Bergstrom, Leah Schaefer and Ellie Jacobson were *huge* contributors in game two. It shows how you never know when your number will be called, but if ready, good things happen. Servant leaders!"

Kralik and Etherington teamed up again, Etherington starting and working into the third inning, allowing five hits, four earned runs, walking two and striking out one. Kralik added another win in working the rest of the game, scattering three hits, allowing no runs, walking two and striking out two.

Morningside worked three pitchers, Buffington staying in the circle until the third inning, allowing four hits, one earned run and no walks. Morgan Secora relieved but allowed three hits, three earned runs in facing four batters. Bralen Biddlecome came in to finish and got the loss, allowing seven hits, three earned runs, no walks and striking out one.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	H	E
Northwestern	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	7	14	0
Morningside	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	1
Player	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO	LOB				
3B Gwen Mikkelsen	4	1	2	0	0	0	0				
SS Madysn Grotewold	4	1	1	0	0	0	0				
1B/2B Emily Strasser	4	1	2	0	0	0	1				
1B Kameryn Etherington	4	2	3	2	0	0	0				
DP/1B Jennifer Boeve	4	0	0	0	0	0	2				
C Chloe Gallegos	4	0	3	2	0	0	0				
PR Jewel Bergstrom	0	1	0	0	0	0	0				
RF Maddie Kvatek	4	0	0	0	0	0	1				
CF Ashtyn Billings	3	1	1	0	0	1	0				
PH Leah Schaefer	1	0	1	1	0	0	0				
LF Charli Bomgaars	3	0	0	0	0	0	1				
PH Ellie Jacobson	1	0	1	1	0	0	0				
2B/DP Addison Binde	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
P Kate Kralik	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Totals	36	7	14	6	0	1	5				

2B: Kameryn Etherington (1); SB: Ashtyn Billings (1); CS: Ashtyn Billings (1), Charli Bomgaars (1)

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Kameryn Etherington	2.2	5	4	4	2	1
Kate Kralik (W, 16-0)	5.1	3	0	0	2	2
Totals	-	4	2	1	4	4

ONE LESS STROKE GAVE DUTCH GIRLS SECOND PLACE AT APRIL 24 MEET

By **DOUG CALSBEEK**
Co-Editor

LARCHWOOD — The MOC-Floyd Valley girls made par on 10 holes at Meadow Acres in Larchwood on Monday, April 24. Central Lyon accomplished that on 12 holes, one golfer putting for one under at the Siouxland Conference meet hosted by West Lyon.

Central Lyon took the team crown, the scoring four combining for 17 strokes fewer than MOC-Floyd Valley's second-place 196. The Dutch girls finished one stroke lower than Sioux Center and took two fewer swings than West Lyon's 198.

Central Lyon won three of the six medalist spots, Mariah Gerleman shooting a 41 to tie Hope Faber of Sioux Center. With a 43 each were Central Lyon's Jaina Groen and Amelia

DUTCH GIRLS PLACE THIRD AT THURSDAY CONFERENCE MEET

By **DOUG CALSBEEK**
Co-Editor

SIOUX CENTER — Scores of 42 through 45 at The Ride in Sioux Center made up the Siouxland Conference medalist list after the Thursday, April 27 meet hosted by Sioux Center. The hosts and Central Lyon were team winners and runners-up, respectively. The MOC-Floyd Valley girls finished with a 194, good for third place.

"I am very pleased with our score on a very windy night in Sioux Center," said Dutch coach Tom Rupp. "The girls did a great job of handling the fastest greens we have seen all year."

Central Lyon fielded the golfer with the lowest score, a 42 by Amelia Schneiderman, who parred three holes on the way to the

Schneiderman. Kendra Boote of West Lyon scored a 45.

Dutch golfer Avery Bunkers nosed onto the medalist board with a 47, along with scoring team members Alexa Reuter with a 48, Avery Van Ravenswaay with a 50 and Shanna Ruden with a 51.

Each Dutch golfer carded at least one par. Bunkers golfed for par on holes two, six, seven and nine.

"Two golfers shot their best score of the year," Dutch coach Tom Rupp said. "Avery Bunkers led us with a 47 and Alexa Reuter 48. Both managed the course well and got the ball up and down around the greens.

"The rest of the team managed to turn in acceptable scores," said Rupp, "even though they made a few mistakes that cost them some extra strokes.

"The course was in good shape, and the weather was great!" Rupp said.

meet low.

Allison Heller led the Dutch with a 46, followed by Avery Van Ravenswaay with a 48 and Shanna Ruden and Avery Bunkers.

"Allison Heller broke into the 40s for the first time this year, leading us with a 46," Rupp said. "Avery Van Ravenswaay had another solid round with 48, followed by Shanna Ruden and Avery Bunkers, both shooting 50."

The Dutch continued play with conference meets on Monday, May 1, Thursday, May 4, and Monday, May 8, and will host the 18-hole conference meet on Tuesday, May 9, at Landsmeer Golf Club on Tuesday, May 9.

Knight soccer shuts out Orabs

By **DOUG CALSBEEK**
Co-Editor

ORANGE CITY, SHELDON — In Friday, April 28, soccer, Unity Christian played Sheldon/Sibley-Ocheyedan, winning both boys and girls matches by shutout. The Knight boys were 7-0 winners, netting four in the first half and three in the second. The Knight girls resolved their match with the only goal, struck in the second half.

"Our offense was on point today and broke down their back line very effectively," said Knight boys' coach David Lee. "Brennan Obbink scored the first four goals in the first half from a combination of a set piece, quick combinations with our striker and brilliant strike outside the box."

Ivan Vincichenko put the ball in the net on a rebound. Carter Slenk struck a goal on an interception "and a solid left-footed strike from 25 yards out," Lee said. Traevin Van Beek also scored on a rebound.

Knight keeper Charlie Wierenga had two saves.

"We passed the ball excellently," said Knight girls' Kevin Muyskens. "We just didn't connect on very many shots. That had a lot to do with an excellent game at sweeper by Hannah Van Maaren of the Orabs.

"Our standouts were Maggie Alons in taking control of the defense, Gracie Deckers playing an excellent game in midfield, connecting back line to the forwards, and Kallie Karhoff who scored the goal midway through the second half."

Callie Karhoff and Autuman Bousema led Knight shooting, Karhoff firing five on net, Bousema four. Mykayla Zylstra had one save. Orab girls' stats were not complete.

Raider tennis wraps up season in GPAC tourney

FREMONT, Neb. — Northwestern College tennis men and women wrapped up their season in the first round of the Great Plains Athletics Conference tournament on Friday, April 28, in Fremont, Nebraska.

Concordia won both matches to continue in the tournament. The Bulldogs won 4-3 in the men's match, 4-1 in women's play.

Men's play

"I couldn't be more happy with how our guys performed," said Coach Monte Tilgner.

"The doubles point was so close. Brian [VandenBerg] and Arthur [Vicente] took their match at number-two doubles. Then number-three doubles lost 6-4, so it came down to the number-one doubles match. We lost that one 4-6, and thus the doubles point went to Concordia.

"Leo [Costa] played probably his best singles match of the year, getting revenge on his Monday loss, winning this time in less than one hour 6-3, 6-0," Tilgner said. "David Bomgaars played very well and got the next point for us, to put us up 2-1 on the match. "Senior captain Brian VandenBerg won what ended up being his last ever match as a Raider 6-3 in a great three-set match," said Tilgner. "This put us up 3-1, but unfortunately even though we played well, we lost the final three matches, and thus lost the match 3-4.

"It was a great performance, considering we lost 6-1 to them just four days earlier," Tilgner said.

VandenBerg, said Tilgner, "will be greatly missed. He has been the face of our program, playing in the number-one singles spot the past four years, and has been such a great leader to our team with his work ethic. Brian has been here since I took over the program, and I am certainly going to miss watching him play. I may never coach another player who is so good at figuring out the best way to beat his opponent and adapting his game to do just that. I knew there was no way he was going to lose that match when it went to a third set."

Women's play

"It was an honor to make the GPAC tournament," said Coach Jamie De Jong. "It took a while for the Bulldogs to take down these Raider women. We play to the clinch of four matches, and at that time everything stops. So, interestingly, there were matches left out on the court unfinished.

"Julia Kutz and Julia Anderson showed up to play and took their doubles match 6-3," De Jong said. "Olya Furmanova and Wynne Vandersall had a more difficult time and were defeated 6-0. This left number-three Raider doubles team Ainslie Robinson and Hannah Beckloff playing number-three Bulldogs. This was a close match and happened to be the last match playing to decide who would earn that one-point advantage going into singles' play. It literally was a back-and-forth battle, changing leads all the way to the end. But, the Raiders came up short, losing 5-7.

"Then we rolled into singles play, Bulldogs leading 1-0," De Jong said. "Raiders number-one Furmanova and number three Anderson both went down in two sets. We had Raiders number-two Julia Kutz, number four Wynne Vandersall and number five Ainslie Robinson all in tiebreaker sets. There was still a chance to take down the Bulldogs, but we needed to win all of the remaining matches.

"Kutz played some beautiful tennis and managed to take down her co-Wyoming competitor from her high-school tournament days 3-6, 6-2 and 6-4," said De Jong. "At this point there was still hope. Number-five Ainslie Robinson was also in a third-set tiebreaker but just couldn't overcome. She went down 0-6, 6-4 and 1-6. Number-four Raider Wynne Vandersall was close to taking down number-four Bulldog Ella Dean. She was leading in her third set 5-3, but the dual was clinched and all play was stopped. She wasn't able to record a win for the team.

"Interestingly, our one senior, Wynne Vandersall, had a phenomenal season this year," said De Jong. "She only dropped one of her last 11 singles matches. She's been a rock and a competitor we could always count on. She showed great fortitude. She's a leader, and she will be missed. Wynne will graduate with honors."